

# 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Mental Health

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human Services

## 2. Fiscal Year

2018

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Mental Health

## 3b. GSA Committee No.

805

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

01/13/1987

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

## 7. Expected Term Date

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

## 8c. Actual Term Date

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority Authorized by Law

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

42 USC 282(b)(16)

## 13. Effective Date

11/20/1985

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee Other Committee

## 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

## 17a. Open 0 17b. Closed 3 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 3 Meetings and Dates

### Purpose

To review intramural laboratories and programs  
To review intramural laboratories and programs  
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### Start

01/29/2018  
06/25/2018  
09/24/2018

### End

- 01/31/2018  
- 06/27/2018  
- 09/26/2018

## Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

## 18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

Current FY \$15,800.00 Next FY \$19,200.00

## 18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

## 18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$137,034.00 \$139,637.00

## 18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$6,800.00 \$9,000.00

## 18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$31,334.00 \$31,616.00

## 18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

## 18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$27,844.00	\$28,182.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$40,817.00	\$41,633.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$259,629.00	\$269,268.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.80	0.80

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

Section 402(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act states that “the Director, NIH...shall assure that research at...the National Institutes of Health is subject to review in accordance with section 492.” Section 492(b) states that the “Director of NIH shall establish procedures for periodic technical and scientific peer review of research at the National Institutes of Health.” The mission of the Board of Scientific Counselors is to assess the quality of the Institute’s intramural research programs and to evaluate the productivity and performance of intramural scientists. The Board reviews the research of each of the NIMH Laboratories and Branches as well as the independent Sections every 4 years or sooner where appropriate. In FY2018 the Board reviewed several laboratories/branches in the NIMH intramural program. At the January 2018 BSC Review, the Section on Neuroadaptation and Protein Metabolism; Laboratory of Neuropsychology; Section on Neurobiology of Learning and memory; Section on Neural Coding and Computation; Section on Cognitive Neurophysiology; and Section on Learning and Decision Making were reviewed. At the June 2018 BSC Review, the Section on Critical Brain Dynamics; Section on Molecular and Cellular Signaling, Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology; and Section on Neurobiology and Treatment of Mood Disorders, Experimental Therapeutics and Pathophysiology Branch were reviewed. In September 2018, the Developmental Neurogenomics Unit; Unit on the Neurobiology of Affective Memory; Statistical Genomics and Data Analysis Core; and Human Brain Collection Core were reviewed. The Board continues to provide evaluation and advice for the management of the research efforts of the intramural program. The Board provides to the National Advisory Mental Health Council for review a description of its activities annually.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Board consists of members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the basic and clinical medical sciences related to the research activities of the Institute. The advisory role of the Board is scientific and substantive. The Board, through periodic visits to the Laboratories, assesses the research in progress and evaluates productivity and performance of staff scientists.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The full Board met three times during this reporting period. The Board holds

approximately three meetings each year for the peer review of intramural laboratories on a rotating basis as required by the PHS Act. Members of the BSC also participated in other activities on 1/25 and 5/11.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The committee is composed of recognized biomedical and/or behavioral research authorities from outside the NIH in order to secure unbiased and objective evaluation of intramural research programs. Their recommendations are invaluable because the complex nature of research in each Laboratory requires a unique balance and breadth of expertise not available on the NIH staff or from other established resources.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

The meetings of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Mental Health, were closed for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual programs and projects conducted by the Institute, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, the competence of individual investigators, and similar items, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Section 552b(c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act permits the closing of meetings where discussion could reveal personal information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

**21. Remarks**

Committee Function: Other - Scientific and Technical Peer Review. Dr. Jennifer Mehren is both the DFO and the Committee Decision Maker for the BSC based on the assignment of responsibilities within this Institute. Reports: This committee did not produce any reports during the fiscal year.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Jennifer E Mehren Scientific Advisor

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
ABEL, EDWIN TED	07/01/2014	06/30/2018	PROFESSOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
ABI-DARGHAM, ANISSA	07/14/2013	06/30/2018	PROFESSOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
KANWISHER, NANCY	09/08/2013	06/30/2018	WALTER A. ROSENBLITH PROFESSOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
LUBY, JOAN	08/09/2015	06/30/2020	FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
MCCARTHY, MARGARET	07/02/2018	06/30/2020	PROFESSOR AND CHAIR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
MOORE, TIRIN	09/08/2013	06/30/2018	PROFESSOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

O'DONNELL, PATRICIO	11/26/2017	06/30/2021	SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW AND HEAD	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
PASTERNAK, TATIANA	11/26/2017	06/30/2021	PROFESSOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
RESSLER, KERRY	05/20/2013	06/30/2018	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
RUBENSTEIN, JOHN	11/26/2017	06/30/2021	DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN CHILD PSYCHIATRY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
TAKAHASHI, JOSEPH	11/26/2017	06/30/2022	PROFESSOR & CHAIR	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VAN ESSEN, DAVID	08/10/2014	06/30/2019	ALUMNI ENDOWED PROFESSOR OF NEUROBIOLOGY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

## Number of Committee Members Listed: 12

### Narrative Description

Section 402(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act states that “the Director, NIH...shall assure that research at...the National Institutes of Health is subject to review in accordance with section 492.” Section 492(b) states that the “Director of NIH shall establish procedures for periodic technical and scientific peer review of research at the National Institutes of Health.” The mission of the Board of Scientific Counselors is to assess the quality of the Institute’s intramural research programs and to evaluate the productivity and performance of intramural scientists. The Board reviews the research of each of the NIMH Laboratories and Branches as well as the independent Sections every 4 years or sooner where appropriate. In FY2018 the Board reviewed several laboratories/branches in the NIMH intramural program. At the January 2018 BSC Review, the Section on Neuroadaptation and Protein Metabolism; Laboratory of Neuropsychology; Section on Neurobiology of Learning and memory; Section on Neural Coding and Computation; Section on Cognitive Neurophysiology; and Section on Learning and Decision Making were reviewed. At the June 2018 BSC Review, the Section on Critical Brain Dynamics; Section on Molecular and Cellular Signaling, Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology; and Section on Neurobiology and Treatment of Mood Disorders, Experimental Therapeutics and Pathophysiology Branch were reviewed. In September 2018, the Developmental Neurogenomics Unit; Unit on the Neurobiology of Affective Memory; Statistical Genomics and Data Analysis Core; and Human Brain Collection Core were reviewed. The Board continues to provide evaluation and advice for the management of the research efforts of the intramural program. The Board provides to the National Advisory Mental Health Council for review a description of its activities annually.

### What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

NA

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

NIH supported basic and clinical research accomplishments often take many years to unfold into new diagnostic tests and new ways to treat and prevent diseases.

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

0

### Number of Recommendations Comments

It is not possible to assign a number for the recommendations made by the Board. They review the research and the scientists and make numerous recommendations.

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

The agency provides feedback to the committee at the meetings and in reports on the research in the Laboratories.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

The Scientific Director and other NIH officials use the recommendations made by the BSC in evaluating the quality of the intramural research programs including scientific priorities and resources available. As a result the following decisions were made: The BSC made recommendations related to the specific research priorities of reviewed laboratories, as needed. Additionally, the BSC recommended changes in resources within reviewed laboratories, as needed.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

NA